

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for monitoring a performance of at least one system component of a
5 manufacturing system, comprising:

defining at least one event that can occur within the system;

determining whether the at least one event has occurred within the system; and

altering a frequency at which the at least one system component is monitored

providing the at least one event has occurred within the system.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein altering a frequency at which the at least one
system component is monitored further comprises:

increasing the frequency in which the at least one system component is monitored

providing the at least one event has occurred within the system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein altering a frequency at which the at least one
system component is monitored further comprises:

altering a frequency at which the at least one system component is monitored for a

preset time period following the occurrence of the at least one event within the

system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein defining at least one event that can occur within
the system further comprises:

defining at least one event as restarting the manufacturing system from a previous

shutdown of the system.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein defining at least one event that can occur within the system further comprises:

defining at least one event as a fault condition occurring with the at least one system component.

5

6. The method of claim 1, wherein altering a frequency at which the at least one system component is monitored further comprises:

causing the at least one system component to run a diagnostic test periodically at a first predefined periodic interval as opposed to a second predefined periodic interval, the first predefined periodic interval being shorter than the second predefined periodic interval.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

defining a predefined action to be performed in response to the occurrence of the at least one event.

15

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

defining a frequency of occurrence for the predefined action.

20

9. The method of claim 7, wherein defining a predefined action to be performed in response to the occurrence of the at least one event further comprises:

defining at least one diagnostic test to be performed by the at least one system component in response to the occurrence of the at least one event.

10. A system, comprising:
at least one system component; and

a monitoring unit adapted to monitor the performance of the at least one system component, determine whether at least one predefined event has occurred within the system, and alter a frequency at which the at least one system component is monitored providing the at least one event has occurred within the system.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to increase the frequency in which the at least one system component is monitored providing the at least one event has occurred within the system.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to alter the frequency at which the at least one system component is monitored for a preset time period following the occurrence of the at least one event within the system.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to define at least one event as restarting the manufacturing system from a previous shutdown of the system.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to define at least one event as a fault condition occurring with the at least one system component.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to cause the at least one system component to run a diagnostic test periodically at a first predefined periodic interval as opposed to a second predefined periodic interval, the first predefined periodic interval being shorter than the second predefined periodic interval.

5

16. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to define a predefined action to be performed in response to the occurrence of the at least one event.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to define a frequency of occurrence for the predefined action.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the monitoring unit is further adapted to define at least one diagnostic test to be performed by the at least one system component in response to the occurrence of the at least one event.

19. A system for monitoring a performance of at least one system component of a manufacturing system, comprising:

means for defining at least one event that can occur within the system;

means for determining whether the at least one event has occurred within the system;

and

means for altering a frequency at which the at least one system component is monitored providing the at least one event has occurred within the system.